

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW AMBLYSCIRTES FROM
TEXAS (LEPIDOPTERA, RHOPALOCERA,
HESPERIIDAE).

BY E. L. BELL, Flushing, N. Y.

Amblyscirtes texanae n. sp.

Male. Upperside. Primaries, brown with some yellow-fulvous overscaling toward the base and inner margin; three whitish discal spots, in an oblique row toward the apex, in a nearly straight line with each other, between veins 1-2, 2-3, 3-4; beyond these are two extradiscal dots; three subapical spots; a rounded spot in the cell, at its upper margin about three-quarters of its length from the base; all slightly tinged with yellowish. The stigma is well developed, occupying most of the angle on the cell border between the base of veins 2 and 3, sometimes extending just below vein 2.

Secondaries. Brown with yellowish-brown hairs and scales in the basal and discal areas of the wings, sometimes a few scattered scales of this color toward the outer margin; an indistinct yellowish discal band, representing that of the under surface.

Underside. Primaries. Brown, lighter than above in the cell; along the costal margin, apex and outer margin from the lower edge of the cell to the inner margin is shaded darker, especially toward the base; cell area sometimes with a few yellowish-brown scales; spots of the upperside repeated.

Secondaries. Ground color pale brown, evenly suffused with sordid white scales; a curved discal band of five whitish spots, two above the cell and one below it toward the base.

Fringes of both wings checkered. Body, above brown; beneath grayish; palpi, whitish, intermixed with a few dark hairs; antennae, blackish, ringed with white; club, black above, beneath whitish, except the tip, which is dark.

Expanse: male, 30 mm.; female 31 mm.; approximately.

The females are similar to the males but with reduced maculation.

Described from 24 specimens collected by Mr. O. C. Poling, in the vicinity of Alpine, Brewster County, Texas, during April, May, June, and July, 1926.

Holotype male and allotype female in collection of the American Museum of Natural History, N. Y. City; one male paratype in the collection of the National Museum, Washington, D. C.;

seven male and one female paratypes in the collection of Dr. William Barnes, Decatur, Illinois; one male paratype in the collection of Dr. A. W. Lindsey, Granville, Ohio; one male paratype in the collection of Mr. R. A. Leussler, Omaha, Nebraska; nine male and two female paratypes in the author's collection.

Mr. Poling also sent to the writer several specimens of *Amblyscirtes aenus* Edwards, collected at the same locality in July. To this species and *cassus* Edwards *texanae* bears the most resemblance; it may be distinguished from *aenus*, on the upperside, by the reduced overscaling of fulvus and the lighter shade thereof; in the three discal spots of the primaries being in a more nearly straight line with each other. On the underside, the cell area is brownish, or with but a few scales of yellowish-brown; in *aenus* this area is scaled with reddish-fulvus. On the underside by the light brown ground color, overscaled with sordid white scales; in *aenus* the ground color is much darker and the overscaling is more purely white. *Texanae* has a more prominent stigma than *aenus*.

The stigma and alignment of the three discal spots of the primaries resemble that of *cassus*; but *texanae* differs from that species by the maculation being only tinged with yellowish and not distinctly fulvus; by the less suffusion of fulvus overscaling of the uppersurface of both wings; by the rounded cell spot of the primaries, on the upper edge of the cell, in all of the specimens of *cassus*, before the writer, there are two cell spots, sometimes connected, occupying the entire width of the cell and in all of the males, the lower spot is elongated toward the base of the cell. On the undersurface by the brown discal area of the primaries, which is bright fulvus in *cassus*; on the secondaries, by the even suffusion of sordid white scales, sometimes almost obliterating the discal band of spots; in the pale brown ground color; in *cassus* the ground color is dark; the overscaling more purely white and unevenly distributed, and the discal band and basal spots are much larger and more prominent; also in *cassus* there is, between vein I and the narrow stripe of white overscaling along the inner margin, a suffusion of fulvus scales which does not occur in *texanae*.